

2002 Maryland Equine Census



Frequently Asked Questions....

What is the Equine Census?

Put simply, the equine census is a count of all horses and ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys located in Maryland regardless of ownership or use. The 2002 Equine Census will be the first-ever count in Maryland of all breeds regardless of use. More than 21,000 equine owners and stable operators will be mailed the questionnaire in August.

Why is the Equine Census Important?

The horse industry in Maryland is growing but no reliable data exists to measure the size and economic impact of the industry for public and private decision-making purposes.

*“We know there are a lot of horses in Maryland and we know the Maryland equine industry is important economically,” said **Maryland Agriculture Secretary Hagner R. Mister.** “Getting an accurate count of equine animals is the first step in planning economic development, health, safety, and emergency activities and in understanding the breadth of the industry’s economic impact.”*

What Kind of Information will be Gathered?

All the major sectors of the equine industry will be included in the census. The questionnaire will ask for numbers of equine by breed, use of equine, location and type of operation, and expenses, sales, and assets associated with equine operations.

The census is NOT part of any licensing, testing, or other regulatory activity. All responses are strictly confidential! Names, addresses and personal information will not be shared with anyone!

Who Conducts the Census?

The Maryland Horse Industry Board has contracted with the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service (MASS) to conduct the census. MASS is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. By gathering and analyzing agricultural statistics, MASS provides timely, accurate, unbiased information for use in making sound business and policy decisions. Professional census-takers will insure thorough and accurate results.

What will the Census Results Tell Us?

- ◆ The scope and economic importance of the Maryland equine industry.
- ◆ The number of horses in Maryland owned for recreational, show/competition, racing, and therapeutic purposes.
- ◆ The amount of land that is used for equine-related activities.
- ◆ How to attract and retain more equine and equine-related businesses and jobs in Maryland.

Most importantly, the census will give leaders in the horse industry as well as public and private decision-makers the current, accurate data they need to promote the industry and make informed decisions.

How Can I Get a Copy of the Final Report?

A final report will be completed in November and will be available to the public. Anyone receiving a census may request a copy of the published report on the form. Others may contact the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service.

Please Participate... It Makes Good Horse Sense.

- ◆ If you receive an equine census in the mail, please complete the form and return it promptly.
- ◆ If you are involved in equine activities and don't receive a questionnaire by **August 31** call 1 800 675-0295 and request a questionnaire.
- ◆ For more information about the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service or the 2002 Maryland Equine Census, contact:

Give the Industry Horse Power... Respond to the Equine Census!

*"It is important that everyone who receives a questionnaire respond," said **Gregory W. Gingery, chairman of the Maryland Horse Industry Board and show horse owner.** "Whether you own a single horse for your family's recreational use or run a large breeding or training facility, we need your input. Anyone concerned about submitting personal or financial information should know that by law, all such information is strictly confidential."*

*"The horse industry has asked us to find out how many animals there are, the total amount of land associated with equine operations, and the economic scope and importance of the industry in Maryland," said **State Statistician Ray Garibay.** "We look forward to working with horse owners and equine facility operators to get reliable answers to those questions."*